

23 June 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Staff Support for the Intelligence
Community Planning System

Those attending a meeting this morning on the above subject were:

Mr. John N. McMahon

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Mr. Robert R. Bowie

Mr. Richard Lehman

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1. Mr. McMahon and [REDACTED] explained the purposes of the DCI's Perspectives as guidance to Intelligence Community program managers. Mr. Bowie noted that the NI Staff has just taken on a major new project, the DCI's annual posture statement, which it seemed to him largely obviated any need for the substantive guidance previously contained in Perspectives. Mr. Bowie further noted that drafting this statement will be a major task and that a requirement to produce a substantive contribution to Perspectives would conflict with the need to devote the Staff's full energies to the posture statement. Mr. McMahon agreed that the posture statement could serve as guidance to program managers for the 18 months following its publication in early November -- i.e., for the budget year.

2. Mr. McMahon and [REDACTED] felt this arrangement would still leave a requirement for some sort of guidance to program managers who have to plan for future collection systems which may take as long as 10 years to develop. Mr. Bowie noted that most of these systems are related to collection against the Soviet Union. A logical time to produce the guidance for systems of this sort would be just after the producers of the major military estimates had finished their first drafts -- i.e., about 1 October. The guidance that would be supplied could be quite specific in terms of the collection systems desired. Mr. McMahon agreed to come back at some later point with a request for the precise sort of contribution that would be useful from the NI Staff.

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3. It was also noted during the conversation that priorities will be set by a quite different procedure in the future. The principal document will be a list of 20 or so Presidential Priorities, which will be elaborated into 60 or so questions for address by Community managers. DCID 1/2 priorities will take their guidance from this document. There was some discussion as to whether KIJs would be required any longer, since subjects they cover coincide almost completely with the subjects of Presidential Priorities. Mr. Bowie was of the opinion that there was still a role for KIJs as a managerial tool to point up certain critical gaps in intelligence collection for immediate attention.



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Executive Officer, DCI/NI